

## **Envision Arlington Diversity Task Group**



**Date:** Monday, September 17, 2018

**Time:** 6:45pm Social Time  
7- 9pm Meeting

**Location:** Jefferson Cutter House, lower level gallery, Arlington Center, corner Massachusetts Avenue and Mystic Street. Entrance from town parking lot, ground level.

### **Minutes:**

Attendance: Michaiah Healy, Brooks Harrison, Purvi Patwari, Laura Kiesel, Lynette Martyn, Mary Harrison, Laura Copiel, Sophie Spink, Jane Spickett, Rajeen Soweja, Katell Guellec

1. Roundtable introductions, including what brings you to the meeting and what rhythm or practice from your summer that you would like to continue.
2. Diversity Project Reports

### **Town Day re-cap**

- Michaiah had a conversation with Captain Julie Flaherty, APD, who is open to talking about breaking down walls and stereotypes, interested in METCO. She is the assigned liaison for the rainbow commission.
- Mary talked with Rudy from Educasious, the group that brings international students to AHS each yr (20-30) and to live with host families. He wondered about working with the DTG, having students talk with us about what it's like to be an international student in Arlington or other possible events (around music). Sophie will follow up with people at the HS about a music communication event.
- Katell mentioned the participation of kids at the booth and how it was easier to reach them in some ways than the adults.

### **METCO**

- This Saturday, 09/22, is the METCO apple picking event. It is unclear which schools communicated about it with their communities. We discussed what the chain of communication is for these Friends of METCO events and how to engage more people.

### **Bystander Training**

- Brooks reminded folks that currently there is one assembly each school year in middle and high school about bullying and they discuss the concept of upstanding (it's also briefly mentioned at the elementary level). However, guidance counselors have told students uncertain about stepping in to interrupt bullies, not to worry about being an upstander.

- He explained the goal of bringing Quabbin Mediation into the schools for bystander trainings. They will be doing a train the trainer 9/22 at 9:30-11:30 who can then come into the schools, with a focus on trainers. Visit [quabbinmediation.org](http://quabbinmediation.org). Sophie will reach out to additional student groups to at least co-sponsor along with gsa/qsa groups.

### **Renters/Housing**

- Laura K. from Tenants for a Livable Arlington spoke about their concerns and goals and how these may intersect with DTG goals. Their group is a few months old and meets monthly. Arlington renters represent many POC, women, young people, and the disabled. They struggle with being priced out or code violations. Another concern is the overnight parking ban and parking options being misrepresented to new renters.
  - their next mtg is 09/17 at 7pm at the library
  - Laura distributed a petition to select board about the parking ban

Email [arlingtonmatenants@gmail.com](mailto:arlingtonmatenants@gmail.com) to be on their mailing list

### **School DIGs**

- Lynette provided background behind school DIGs, including history around Colonial Day. Recently, Brackett got permission to send an anonymous survey to parents, based on one provided by Carlos Hoyt. There was discussion on how that change happens at a slow pace and that it's huge that diversity is a district goal and is being supported by the superintendent. Each elementary school is making some progress with varying pace and degrees of progress.

### **Diversity Matters Project**

- A new project was discussed consisting of monthly interviews on why diversity matters: why should it matter. The idea is to use the same format each interview and publishing them in various places. Ultimately, this would culminate with a town forum. Sophie will be assisting with this project. One goal is to make sure to include people who've been born and raised here.

### **Arlington Reads**

- Brooks mentioned that some books being considered for Arlington Reads include: *Dude, You're a Fag*, *Between the World and Me*, and *Dear Rachel Maddow*.